

# FramingHAM Circuit

OCT 86

Vol. 53, No. 10

## Flea Market Help Needed

We're adding a new wrinkle to our semi-annual Flea Market Oct. 28, but that wrinkle is going to mean we'll be needing more help. Starting at noon that Sunday, we're going to be involved in our first Amateur Radio Testing session and the exam team will need your assistance.

As you probably know, if you've been following the articles in QST, the Amateur Radio community has become responsible for testing not only potential Novices, but also for administering the tests for all other ham radio classes. This new program is the culmination of several years of deregulation by the Federal Communications Commission, whose budget has been continually pared to the point where it can no longer give Amateur Radio tests, as it had been doing for years.

Remember the days when you could drive to Boston on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and take a test -- Wednesdays were for CW? Well, those days are certainly gone and with the FCC's test next month in Boston, the FCC-administered test program will, for all intents and purposes, be finished.

The result is we'll be testing ourselves and that's what we'll be doing on the 28th. Since the Volunteer Exam Team, which consists of Ed, W1NXC, team leader; Dick, WA1KUG; Marc, N1BLH; Lew, K1AZE; Arnie, K1BPM; Mac, WA1IGL, and Bob, KB1EW, will be tied up administering the various phases, we will need

more help than we've ever needed before. For instance, we'll need people to help out with checking examinees in at the door. We'll also need help in directing the examinees to the site.

Ed, W1NXC, will have more to say on this at the meeting Oct. 4.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Pay Dues Early

It's time for the annual dues reminder and FARA Treasurer Dick, WA1KUG, reminds all members to pay them early, so you'll be all set when the new year rolls around. As usual, annual dues are \$10 and \$5 for senior citizens and students.

How can you tell if your dues are due? Take a look at the mailing label on this month's newsletter. In the lower corner you'll see a date code, 84. That coding indicates the year your membership expires and once it expires you'll only receive one more newsletter and that will be all. So, to be sure you stay fully informed about what's going on with FARA and to continue receiving all the other benefits that go along with your membership, you must remember your dues.

You can send them directly to Dick Marshall, WA1KUG, Treasurer, at his home QTH, 37 Lyman Road, Framingham, Ma. 01701 or you can send them to FARA, P.O. Box 3005, Framingham, Ma. 01701 or you can pay them at the next meeting.

Dick also has another reminder about repeater dues. Until the end of the year, you can have access to the repeater for \$3. When the new year begins in January, the repeater dues for 1985 will be \$10. This is in addition to your regular FARA dues and will pay for the upkeep of the machine, which isn't an inexpensive proposition.

As you will remember under the terms of the amalgamation of the Framingham Repeater Assn. and FARA, repeater members automatically become FARA members until the end of 1984, when their FARA membership dues are due. For 1985, repeater members must pay their FARA dues in order to have access to the machine's functions. The amalgamation of the two organizations effectively halved the dues rate for the repeater -- \$10, instead of \$20 -- and so current repeater members only have to pay their \$10 to FARA. In 1986, \$20 will cover both FARA and repeater membership.

\*\*\*\*\*

The FramingHAM Circuit is published monthly by the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 3005, Framingham, Ma 01701. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month from September to June at the club headquarters in the Danforth Museum, Lexington Street, Framingham. Club activities include the Framingham Flea Markets and Field Day. Club Station: W1FY/Repeater, W1FY, 147.75/15. President, Bob Press, KB1EW, 655-1710; Vice President, Burt Shaffer, N1DDO, 872-0534; Treasurer, Dick Marshall, WA1KUG; Secretary, Ken Horton, KA1GFN, 485-6542; Director and Station-Repeater Trustee, Lew Nyman, K1AZE, 879-7456; Corporate Counsel, Arthur Marshall, Esq.; FramingHAM Circuit Editor, Marc Stern, N1BLH, c/o the club post office box. Contents of the FramingHAM Circuit are copyright FARA, Inc. Permission to reprint is hereby granted, providing the FramingHAM Circuit is credited in full.

## Flea Market Tops Out.

At the October meeting, scheduled for Thursday Oct. 4, Lew, K1AZE, will talk about this semi-annual flea market and the help he and his committee will need putting it together. This year we will need more help because of the planned Amateur Exam test session.

According to Lew, setup for the Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday morning, the day before, Oct. 27, and we will need all the help we can get. Jobs that will have to be done that day include the setup and marking of tables for sellers, as well as moving chairs out of the way. We will also need some help moving gear that is donated for the club table.

On Sunday, Oct. 28, the day of the Flea Market, we will need operators to help with talk-in; admissions; check-in, and security, as well as for the exams which will begin at noon.

Lew will be circulating a sign-up list at the meeting, so, if you can, please try to help out for part of the weekend.

Another highlight of the October meeting will be a chance to see the videotape of Field Day. This tape, prepared by Community Cablevision of Framingham, W1BJS, general manager, was aired on the local community access channel last summer and was professionally prepared. So, if you didn't have a chance to come to, or participate in, this year's Field Day weekend, you can have a chance to see much of what went on. It should be a good take-in.

So, don't forget to circle Thursday Oct. 4 on your calendar. The meeting should be interesting and we have some important business to discuss. As usual, there will be refreshments afterwards.

## President's Corner

Not only is our flea market the largest indoor electronic flea market in New England, it is also the primary source of income for our scholarship fund.

The Dr. Carlton Crosby Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association is somewhat unique. There were five scholarships awarded this past Spring to outstanding youngsters active in amateur radio. The awards were made on the basis of scholastic achievement, community service and other criteria.

Some of the funds were from a generous donation by Mrs. Carlton Crosby.

It is gratifying to know that our efforts in support of the flea market are going to support such a worthy cause.

The scholarship fund has been expertly administered since its inception by George Blakeslee, N1GB. Our hats are off to George for a task extremely well done.

73,

Bob, KB1EW

The repeater, which has been located in this town for 15 years, has, at various times, been on a different frequency -- 146.34/94 (we were the original) -- and in different places, including the fire tower atop Mt. Nobscot, the home of K1AIU (Gerry) and split-site, before it was moved to its current home in the state Civil Defense facility. That move was negotiated by K1GFH.

As those of us who have been in the repeater association have known, the repeater's former management, FRA, was "more a philosophy than a real association," Joe told the meeting. Everything was handled informally and there were no formal officers or committees. The treasury handled the expenses of the repeater and its upkeep. It was in this manner that informal discussions were launched between FRA and FARA last summer. Those discussions culminated in the amalgamation of the two organizations.

At this point, Lew, K1AZE, took up the discussion of the repeater's operation as part of FARA. He told the large audience of club members that the repeater would continue to operate as it had in the past and there would be no significant changes in its operation, although the coverage pattern would be more balanced and some technical changes would also occur. Operationally, he noted, there should be no apparent difference.

---

## Repeater Tops Meeting

At one of the best-attended opening meetings in recent years, the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn. heard a lengthy discussion of the amalgamation of FARA and the Framingham Repeater Assn., as Lew, K1AZE, and club members, Joe, K1GFH, and Dave, W1YSW, provided a detailed discussion of the amalgamation and the history of the Framingham 147.75/15 repeater.

Why did the board launch the talks in the first place? Lew explained that through the years there was more and more cross-membership between FRA and FARA and that FARA was using the repeater for more and more functions, including the local emergency net, public service events and talk-in for the Flea Market. It just seemed a logical extension of FARA, Lew noted, for the amalgamation to occur, especially since 19

of the 34 current FRA members were also FARA members.

Lew also gave a detailed technical explanation of the repeater's operation. He was assisted by Arnie, K1BPM, who has given us hours of technical assistance in retuning the machine. Arnie, who lives on the North Shore, attended the meeting and is one of Lew's key aides on the technical committee.

When the talk had finished, the club took up the discussion of the project and questions were answered. The club then voted to support the board of director's actions.

Following this vote, the membership undertook a discussion of the dues structure and it was decided that anyone who wanted to join the repeater for the rest of the year (the last quarter) would only be required to pay \$3, with the regular \$10 repeater dues due on Jan. 1. Both FARA and repeater membership the run on a calendar year basis.

When this discussion was finished the club adjourned to the goodies that were fixed by the YL's of the hospitality committee, chaired by Karen, KA1BYP. The goodies that night were contributed by Marjie, KA1HIA, Karen and Toby, N1DDO. (Ed. note: We don't want to rub it in, but if you didn't get to the meeting you missed some delicious baked goodies. But, you'll get your chance later in the year, we're sure.)

### ----- For Burt, A Surprise

The unsung hero of the first meeting was Burt, N1DDO, our new vice president. When he was elected to the post last summer, he was told the vice president really didn't have much to do, except assist the

president. With that in mind, Burt came to the first meeting.

What he didn't expect was that Bob, KB1EW, would be called out of town on a last-minute business problem and that at his first meeting as vice president he would have to run it.

Well, run it he did, and very well, too. So, if there's an unsung hero award for the first meeting it has to go to Burt, N1DDO, who handled the gavel very well. (Burt was one of our graduates from last year's Novice class and, not too long ago, upgraded to general. He is also one of our newer members and this is the first office he has held in FARA.)

### ----- Repeater Notes

By the time you receive this newsletter, the call sign of the repeater should have been changed to W1FY. According to Lew, K1AZE, chairman of the technical committee, the new programmable read-only memory (PROM), which contains the new call sign has been ordered and, by now installed, so you will hear the new call when the repeater identifies. The installation will be handled by key technical committee member, Arnie, K1BPM.

Also, Lew notes, the new duplexers for the machine are well along in their manufacture and they should also be installed soon. The new duplexers are being installed in preparation for a return to a single transceive antenna at the repeater site. We are now using a Phelps-Dodge vertical for transmitting and a Ringo Ranger ARX-2B for receiving. Because of planned changes at the repeater site, we will be losing our

receive antenna position and will be forced to move back to the single antenna.

Finally, the trusteeship of the repeater has changed hands. Lew is now officially the trustee of the repeater, as well as the club station. The change became official about two weeks ago when the club received its renewed station and repeater license.

Lew noted, too, that one of the missions of the repeater is to provide public service and help in the event of emergencies. To that end, he reminded club members, who have 2-meter VHF capability, to tune into the Framingham Area Amateur Radio Emergency Net, which meets every Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. Anyone can check into this net and its purpose is to demonstrate the widespread capabilities of Amateur Radio in the event of an emergency. The repeater is used for the net.

### ----- FAAREN Notes

If you've ever wanted to be involved in the public service aspect of Amateur Radio on a local level, why not give the Framingham Area Amateur Radio Emergency Net a try? This informal net meets every Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. on the 75/15 Framingham Repeater. Its purpose, as noted in the last item, is to "demonstrate the unique capabilities of Amateur Radio in the event of an emergency." This quote comes from the preamble FAAREN uses to start the net.

How can you participate? First, you must have a Technician class license and 2-meter VHF-FM capability (or, if you're a Novice, you must operate out of the shack of a

friend with a higher-class license) and then you simply check in.

On FAAREN, you'll find it is an informal, but directed net, where everything is handled through net control. Why is it? The reason is simple: during an emergency that's exactly how we'll be handling it.

Some weeks we cover different aspects of traffic handling, while other weeks we have "war games," just to see if we're ready.

Don't think that this is all that FAAREN does because it isn't, by a long shot. For example, this summer FAAREN was activated during the Holliston general alarm fire, and we assisted with the March of Dimes Walkathon. We have also assisted with the Red Cross communications effort during the Boston Marathon and we assisted in many smaller community races and walkathons, as we have for years.

One benefit of FAAREN you may not think about is that you will also meet other regular repeater users and club members. So, if you're free on a Sunday evening, check-in, we have a pretty good time.

### ----- Kids Need Help

The Natick High School Amateur Radio Club is being revived and needs equipment. According to Gerry, N1DGC (ex-KA1LNH), a new ham and adviser to the club, it can use donations of whatever gear you may have available.

Its first, and most important need, is a low-band transceiver, although donations of coaxial switches, antennas, meters, dummy loads and other equipment to help get the

school station into operation, would also be appreciated.

A FARA member has been instrumental in reviving this fine organization, David, KA1IKV, a graduate of our 1981-1982 class. David drew up the petition for reviving the club, as well as a long report for the Natick School Committee, and Bob provided support for both David and Gerry. Other young FARA members who are also helping out include Gary, KA1JWE, and Mike, KA1IKW, both graduates of our classes and sons of club member, Dick, WA1HRV.

FARA is happy that this school radio club is being revived and the board of directors promises to give the youngsters and their club whatever support we can. The board believes that getting more youngsters involved with Amateur Radio is good for not only the area, but also the service itself.

So, if you have something you can spare, contact Gerry or David and donate it. It's very worthwhile.

## A Tip of the Hat To...

...Henry, KB1PE (ex-WB3HIO), for upgrading to Advanced Class and receiving his new call.

...Jimmy, N1DFQ (ex-KA1JLT), for upgrading to General Class and receiving his new call.

...Gerry, N1DGC (ex-KA1LNH), for upgrading to Technician Class and receiving his new call, as well as for his work on reviving the Natick High radio club.

...Mark Shaffer, son of Burt, N1DDO, and Toby, N1DDS, for taking his first step in Amateur Radio by

passing his Novice exam.

## Swap and Shop

FOR SALE: ICOM IC25A, two-meter mini-mobile FM transceiver. Low/high-power settings; 25 watts maximum output. Six months old-mint. \$222.22. Call Joe, K1GFH, 449-2540.

FOR SALE: Heathkit SB102 transceiver with matching power supply. 80-10-meter coverage; CW/SSB; semi-QSK. Package includes: matching power-supply/speaker (SB600); HM-102 SWR/Power meter; outboard audio speech processor; desk microphone; spare set of 6146 finals; manuals. \$325. Call Lew, K1AZE, 879-7456.

FOR SALE: SWR Bridge-Power meter combination, remotable sensor. \$25. Call Marc, N1BLH, on local repeater or drop note to club box.

FOR SALE: ICOM speaker-microphone for IC-2AT/02AT series walkie. \$20. Call Marc, N1BLH, on local repeater or drop note to club box.

## Wanted: Good Leaders

By Bob, WB1FHT

The Greater Framingham Chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking a few good leaders to be trained in skills, such as Damage Assessment, to lead Red Cross teams into damaged areas to deploy, survey and assess property damage, and to submit the collected data for official reports.

Such leadership and decision-making skills are not easy to find. The local Red Cross has a high regard for the responsibility and dedication of local Amateur Radio

operators.

the difference.

In a recent emergency situation, Amateur Radio operators, once again, proved the value of their service with their readiness for virtually any disaster situation by establishing a radio communication link from the scene of a major fire in Holliston to the Red Cross Chapter House in Framingham less than one-hour after after being called into action.

Fortunately, this was a local situation. However, in the event of a larger (area) disaster, Damage Assessment Teams would be sent into the Disaster Area to make first-hand surveys of the seriousness and extent of the damage. (These surveys do not involve going into damaged buildings.)

To provide quick and accurate information to the Disaster Coordinator, an Amateur Radio operator would be needed to accompany each Damage Assessment Team (as well as an operator at the Chapter House). With a little training, an Amateur Radio operator could be the Team Leader, participating in the Damage Assessment survey, and making key decision in the on-the-scene action, in addition to relaying information back to the Disaster Coordinator.

If you would like to develop your skills and participate in the on-the-scene action in a full leadership role, or in a limited part-time capacity, contact the Greater Framingham Chapter of the American Red Cross now for Damage Assessment and other training courses. You can make

## Social Events

Sat. Oct. 6. The second Fall Hoss Traders Tailgate Swapfest will be held at the Deerfield Fair Grounds, Deerfield, N.H. Admission is \$2 for buyers or sellers. No commission or percentage. Excess revenues go to the Boston Burns Unit of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children. Food and drink available. Friday camping allowed starting at 4 p.m. Camping fee is \$3, collected by the Fair Grounds Assoc. Talk-in on .52 direct and 146.40/147.00.

Sat. Oct. 20. The Middlesex Amateur Radio Club will hold a Ham Radio Flea Market and Foliage Extravaganza at the town hall in Dover. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for buyers and 8:30 a.m. for sellers. The event runs until 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available. Early Bird tables \$8. Admission is \$1 per person. Talk-in on 147.96/35. For information: contact, Irving Geller, KO1N, at 875-3653 or write to 1450 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA. 01701.

Sun. Oct. 28. The Northeast's largest indoor electronic Flea Market and Amateur Exams at the Framingham Flea Market. For those of you who would like to reserve a table, contact Jon, K1VVC at 877-7166 or Dick, WA1KUG at 877-0563.